

2/3

Serial Number: 10/008,917

-18

6

Art Unit: 3621

limitations of claim 17, any of the items of prior art show program implementation of authorization (See cols. 7-12 of Clark) and a storage medium (See cd-rom, element 14 of Subler et al) which is the conventional functional equivalent of the claim limitations. Regarding claim 12, Clark (See Figs. 1-3, 16, 18 Col. 3, lines 5-20) disclose means (See Cols. 7-12) for employing a license server employing a user key (element 5) which is detected and tested substantially as claimed. The differences between the above and the claimed invention is the use of key based on user uniqueness. Subler et al (Col. 2, lines 55-65) or Shin et al (See Figs. 1-2, Col. 2, lines 35-55) show a key generator based on unique user characteristic data. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in this art to provide a similar arrangement for Clark because Key generators are conventional functional equivalents of the claim limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Salvatore Cangialosi at telephone number (703) 305-1837. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 Am to 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached at (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231